

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
VOLUNTARY STATEMENT
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EVENT#: 171001-3519

SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: OFFICER JOSEPH JONES (JJ), P# 16099

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE A. UBBENS (AU), P# 13119, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1838 hours. Also present are Detective P. Quinteros (PQ), P# 9055, and Las Vegas Police Protective Association representative M. Hamm (MH), P# 6675.

AU: Operator, this is Detective Ubbens, Union, Baker, Baker, Union, Norah, Sam with the Force Investigation Team conducting a recorded statement under Event# 171001-3519 conducting an officer interview with Officer Joseph Jones, common spelling, P# 16099. The call sign of 3 Mary 15. Date of hire [REDACTED] area of command of Convention Center. RDOs Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and normal work hours 1500 to 0100. Date of the incident was operating vehicle number 10916. This interview is reference to an active shooter that occurred on October 1st, 2017 2208

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hours in the area of 3950 South Las Vegas Boulevard, commonly known as Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino. Today's date is October 3rd, 2017, at 1838 hours. The statement is being conducted at 400 Martin Luther King Boulevard, Building C, fourth floor conference room. Also present is Detective, uh, P. Quinteros, P# 9055 and Officer Hamm, P# 6675 of LVPPA. Are you aware this interview is being recorded?

JJ: Yes.

AU: Before we get started, um, you're currently wearing your standard LVMPD uniform. Um, can you describe to me what uniform you were wearing the night of the active shooter?

JJ: I was wearing the same uniform, so the uniform of the day, um, tan.

AU: Okay, can you tell me about the equipment that you have on your uniform?

JJ: Um, I have my badge, um, name tag. I have my gun belt with, uh, my - my handgun, um, and my Taser, handcuffs, pepper spray, uh, baton.

AU: So fully equipped duty belt?

JJ: Yes.

AU: Okay, were you wearing your body-worn camera?

JJ: Yes.

AU: Okay, what kind of gun do you carry?

JJ: A Glock 17.

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AU: Okay, so, um, just start by telling us, uh, how you learned about the call, uh, what you learned and how you responded to it.

JJ: Okay, so from what I remember as far as location I - I believe I was on the Boulevard, uh, right around Fashion Show, maybe somewhere right in there, um, and I remember the first, uh, the first radio traffic being something along the lines of, uh, one of the - the overtime units saying, um, "We have multiple shots fired, um, at the Mandalay Bay." Um, "Active shooter." Um, and I, you know, went ahead and assigned myself and I started - I activated my body-worn camera, um, started rolling, um, lights and sirens to the, uh, towards the scene, uh, going, uh, south on the Boulevard. Um, took the Boulevard all the way down. On - on the way there, um, I heard some - some other radio traffic about multiple casualties, automatic gunfire, um, and also, um, that - before I got - I think it was right before I got there I started hearing things about the shooter's possibly at an elevated position. Um, but at that - at that point they didn't say exactly where. I assumed the Mandalay Bay but, um, so as I was approaching, um, I stopped a little short, um, on the far north side of the festival grounds, um, in the middle of Las Vegas Boulevard. Um, so it would - it would have been south of Reno but before you actually get to Mandalay Bay. There's like a turn and then the - the, um, north side of the festival grounds to exit, um, that's where I - where stopped right around there. Um, deployed by shotgun, um, and then another unit was at -- Mary, I believe it was Mary 13 -- um, Officer Johnson, uh, was arriving at the same time. Um, and based on the radio traffic that's why I kind of felt - or stopped there. Um, 'cause it still - it still wasn't clear if the

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shooter was inside or outside, so I first started traveling east towards the far south side of festival grounds, uh, with Officer Johnson. Uh, and we saw people pouring out running, um, going north on the, you know, on the Boulevard out of the fair grounds. Made contact with a few people, asked where the shooter was? Who, you know, if they could - any description, anything like that? And at that moment there was - there was no gunfire so, um, maybe about 15 seconds after that, uh, he - he opened up. Um, again and we heard the automatic rifle fire. And I turned and looked and I could see the muzzle flashes coming from up on the Mandalay Bay. Um, immediately started running, um, west back towards our vehicles. I'm still kind of southwest. Um, tried to get radio traffic over that the - that any arriving units should stop short and not go past, uh, kind of where we were. Could not, just couldn't get in on the radio. Um, even when I hit my emergency button I couldn't get through. Um, crossed west, um, and then met up with another arriving officer. I'm not sure who - who he was, but he had a, uh, rifle. We started a three man team. Um, we were getting, you know, I don't know what it was, sixty or whatever rounds. And then there would be a short break and then he would open up again. Uh, we started running, um, south, um, kind of hugging whatever cover we could find. Um, and then started moving west, um, towards - to hug the Lux- you know, whatever part of the Luxor we could, the parking lot that's just adjacent there. Um, as we were running, um, I believe it was the sergeant for the overtime of the event we ran into 'cause he was wearing, um, the - the actual, uh, vest, the - the - the, uh, bright green vest. Um, but I can't remember his name if I'm being honest. Um, we - we - and as - so we just kept

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moving, um, south towards, um, the Mandalay Bay. By then we kind of had - had an idea what his vantage point was so we were trying to go as far west so that we could enter the hotel, um, without being in his line of fire. But he was really pinning - pinning us down a lot. So we got stuck at one point and just - we couldn't move for maybe - it felt like forever but it was prob- I think it was probably just a couple of minutes. Um, kept moving south. Um, and by the time we crossed the street, uh, Mandalay Bay Drive to go into the Mandalay Bay we had maybe about an eight man element by then. Um, 'cause people just kept joining up. Um, we tried to get in the south - or it would have been -- I'm sorry -- the north doors of Mandalay Bay, and we couldn't get in. Um, and then we found an employee that could get us in through their concert hall there. Um, so the entire team entered through the concert hall. Uh, went up the stairwell. We form- we formed, uh, it was like either two four-man elements or there might have been nine, you know, it might have been uneven but we tried to break it up into two elements, uh, and we start - and by then the gun - we knew the gunfire had stopped for at least a couple of minutes. Um, the information we had when - when we entered the building was just we had an id- an approximation that it was 32nd floor because of security. Um, so when we went in our - because the gunfire had stopped what we - what the plan was was to try to contain him from leaving the building. So, um, we started moving through the casino in a group. Um, started clearing everybody out. Um, patting everybody down we could. Um, made contact with a couple security officers who, you know, said that he was on the 32nd floor that when - that he had a camera set up, um, and that he had

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screwed the fire exits closed and that when they tried to go up there that he, um, turned around and did automatic fire through the door, um, and that, you know, basically the only way to get up there was, you know, kind of a suicide thing. But, um, we tried to relay some of that traffic. I think we ended up having to do some of it over the phone, um, 'cause we couldn't get over the air. Um, we took positions all around the elevator areas and just kept trying to clear people out. So if he came down we could try to neutralize it. Um, and then I wanna say maybe 10 to 15 minutes after, uh, we - we were - we entered the building the first, uh, SWAT officer arrived. I think it was a SWAT sergeant, but I can't remember to be honest with you. Um, and briefed him very quickly, um, that the shooter was on the 32nd floor. Um, that, you know, all the information I just gave you guys and then, um, a security guard that had access to, um, the service elevators, um, took that - took him to, uh, move up. And he instructed us to - to try to hold and contain downstairs in case he had left the room and in case he came down and, um, so that's what we - we did. We just kind of held everything until we heard, uh, the breach over the radio. Um, and then, um, we just kept clearing and clearing and clearing, getting people out of there. And then after that, um, we pretty much went through every - every room in the entire hotel, um, with SWAT. Um, we were broken into like teams of like eight or ten with - with, uh, medics and went room to room to room to room to room, make sure there was nobody hurt or no other rooms that might be involved. Um, and pretty much did that until about 6:00 a.m.

AU: Um, at what point did you stop hearing the gunshots?

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JJ: Uh, once we were pinned down, um, in that - I can't remember if it was - I think it was in one of those spinx or whatever, I don't know, one of the things that the Luxor has for that few minutes, uh, there was a break and we - we jumped the fence and then kept moving. From that point until we actually entered, we - we didn't hear any other gunfire. So that's why when we got in there we - we were trying to get in there so quickly 'cause we thought, he's probably coming down now to just continue moving down the Boulevard or do whatever. Um, but I would say it was probably total guess maybe six minutes after my arrival, seven minutes after my arrival.

AU: What would your guess be between from the last gunshot you heard till when the radio traffic of the breach was?

JJ: I...

AU: I know it's hard, but...

JJ: Yeah, 20 minutes.

AU: Okay.

JJ: Maybe 20 minutes, yeah.

PQ: Um, were you, uh, are you rifle certified?

JJ: No.

PQ: Okay, so you didn't have a rifle?

JJ: No, I had a, uh, a shotgun with slugs.

PQ: Okay, so you...

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JJ: Yeah.

PQ: ...you did pull a shotgun. And then, uh, did you have a tack vest?

JJ: I did not, no.

PQ: All right, and then did you wear your helmet or...

JJ: Uh, I got it later in the evening...

PQ: Okay

JJ: ...but when I - I first arrived, no, I didn't...

PQ: Okay, it was just...

JJ: ...have time to...

PQ: ...too demanding?

JJ: Yeah.

PQ: Um, can you - when you were pinned down near the Luxor, um, could you hear - you can hear the rounds but could you hear impact rounds near you?

JJ: Um, not - not...

PQ: Or...

((Crosstalk))

JJ: ...real - real close but, um, I mean, you could hear the - that sound of the whizzing but, um, nothing near us was like, you know, indicating that rounds were like directly impacting like real - real close. Um, when I - when we were crossing the street we

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did hear impacts and there was definitely stuff impacting near and that's when we - 'cause we took cover behind our cars for maybe 30 seconds in between, um, magazines and that kind -- and then when he went through that magazine that's when we continued west.

PQ: When you first arrived and hooked up with the other officer you said that you saw - that it was coming from the Mandalay Bay, did you see the - the muzzle flash and...

((Crosstalk))

JJ: Uh, yeah, I did but I saw it when I was further, um, east.

AU: Mm-hm.

JJ: When I was by the fairgrounds, um, when he - when the - the first volley opened up after I arrived. That's when I turned around and I could actually see the muzzle flashes. It - because of, you know, it - to me it looked like it was like eight floors up but that's because of the way the glass is and everything. So as I went west the first officer I ran into, uh, he actually had a - a rifle so, um, I started telling him how many levels up it looked like it was coming from and then when he opened up again we kept peeking out and I was trying to get the - the guy - the officer with the rifle to kind of see if he could get a vantage point on, um, where it was coming from, but he was having a hard time.

AU: Did you ever see more than one muzzle flash at any time?

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JJ: No, I - I mean, as - as the, uh, as the shots were being fired I only saw the muzzle flash once. Um, and that was when I was on the east side of the Boulevard. Once I moved to the west for a very brief time and it must have been when he was in - at the farther, I guess it would be north, window, you could see just barely. Intermittently you could see some flashing, but then once we started to move a little bit more west couldn't see it anymore.

PQ: Can you - can you try to - can you tell me how many volley - volley of fires you think, um...

JJ: Uh...

PQ: ...that you heard while you were there?

JJ: Two. I wanna say six. At least six. Um, you know, and it sounded like a lot more than 30 like at a time, so I - like I just - I've heard a lot of people say 30 rounds at a time. To me it sounded like it was a little bit more than 30 going at a time.

PQ: And then as far as, um, the volley, so there's one and then pause and one and then pause. The sound of the weapon the suspect may have used what - what do you think? Was it - was it fast burst, was it slow?

JJ: It sounded - it sounded fully automatic. Like it didn't - it sounded so fast that it didn't seem like somebody could - could just do that with, you know, just by - by, uh, hitting the - the trigger over and over again. I mean, it sounded fully auto as it was going off absolutely.

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AU: What did security - you said security told you that the guy had, um, cameras.

JJ: Yes.

AU: What - what exactly did he tell you?

JJ: So he said that when they went up there there was a dinner tray, um, that was outside of his room, and he had set up a camera on that dinner tray so that he could see, um, people coming down the hallway and that he had, um, screwed the fire exit closed so that no one could come through the ex- so he would basically have the only approaching angle on camera.

AU: Mm-hm.

JJ: Um, and he said that when they first went up there to, you know, because of the reports that they were getting that, um, as they were coming down the hall way, um, he - he just started firing through the door. And he - he said one of their off- one of their security officers took a round to the leg or somethin' like that.

AU: Mmm.

JJ: Um, so that - that's - that's what we got from him.

AU: Okay - okay.

HAM: Just very briefly. Um, earlier when you first began you said you took the Boulevard to the scene. You meant Las Vegas Boulevard, correct?

JJ: Las Vegas Boulevard, yes.

HAM: Okay, just wanted to clarify that. And you were a single man unit that night, correct?

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JJ: Yes.

HAM: Okay, and until you met up with the other guys?

JJ: Yes.

HAM: That's all I have.

AU: You have anything?

JJ: Uh, I don't - I don't think so. I mean, nothin' that I think really, you know, would help as far as, you know, the first breach went over the air I heard that.

AU: Mm-hm.

JJ: But, um, the only thing, you know, is we weren't sure how long, you know, 'cause of all these other calls, um, you know, it just was a little confusing for a while whether we had one shooter, three shooters what was going on but, I mean, you know, for the most part I think everybody did a - a pretty awesome job of kind of putting teams together on the fly and getting in there and - and trying to - trying to contain him and take him out.

AU: All right, the time is 1855.

THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1855 HOURS.

AU: PQ: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)
FIT2017-032

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